

83. A prosthetic limb, comprising:

a prosthetic limb socket shaped for receiving a patient's residual limb, said socket having a socket wall, a socket interior, a proximal opening, and a distal end;

*D* a base-plate fitted within said socket interior at said distal end of said socket, said base including a channel extending into said base and opening onto said socket interior; and

a port communicating with said channel, said port facilitating the coupling of a pump thereto so as provide a forced transfer of air to or from said socket interior.

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REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 43-83 are presently active in this case. Claim 43 has been amended and claims 67-83 have been added by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Applicants' September 19, 2002 paper was deemed non-responsive because it (i) attempted to reinstate canceled claims and (ii) failed to specifically point out the support in the original disclosure for the newly presented claims.

In response to Applicants improper attempt to reinstate canceled claims, Applicants have presented the same claims as new claims 67-83. Hence, no further issue regarding that matter is anticipated.

Please find below a claim chart pointing out support in the original disclosure for each of the claim limitations of claims 43-66. Hence, that matter is believed to be fully addressed.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

43. The prosthetic limb of Claim 67, further comprising a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb.	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
44. A prosthetic limb socket and valve assembly, comprising:  a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb;	See Figure 1.  Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
a base attached to the interior distal end of the socket, having a proximate surface, including at least one channel extending through said proximate surface;	See Figure 1, base 16, and channel 22.
a duct extending through said socket, connected to said channel; and	See Figure 1, duct 60.
a valve coupled to said duct for controlling the flow of air therethrough.	See Figure 1, valve 58.
45. The prosthetic limb and valve assembly of Claim 44, wherein said valve is coupled to a pump which provides a forces transfer of air to or from the socket interior.	Page 9 lines 14-28.
46. The prosthetic limb and valve assembly of Claim 44, wherein said base includes an attachment means adapted to releasably attach an upright assembly to the distal end of the socket.	Page 10 lines 10-21.
47. The prosthetic limb and valve assembly of Claim 44, wherein said base is adapted to be removably fitted within the socket interior at the distal end of the socket.	Page 7 lines 16-24.
48. The prosthetic limb and valve assembly of Claim 44, wherein said base includes a proximate cushion portion.	Figure 1, cushion 28.
49. The prosthetic limb and valve assembly of Claim 44, wherein said sleeve provides a seal between said residual limb and said socket.	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
50. A prosthetic limb comprising:  a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb;	See Figure 1.  Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
a socket having an interior configured to contain a wearer's residual limb and said sleeve, a distal end, and an inner surface; and	See Figure 1, socket 12.
a valve assembly removably coupled to the distal end of the socket, providing fluid communication with the socket interior.	See Figure 1, valve 58.

51. The prosthetic limb of Claim 50, wherein said valve is coupled to a pump which provides a forced transfer of air to or from the socket interior.	Page 9 lines 14-28.
52. The prosthetic limb of Claim 50, further comprising a base attached to the interior distal end of the socket, having a proximate surface, including at least one channel extending through said proximate surface.	See Figure 1, base 16, and channel 22.
53. The prosthetic limb of Claim 52, wherein said base is adapted to be removably fitted within the socket interior at the distal end of the socket.	Page 7 lines 16-24.
54. The prosthetic limb of Claim 52, wherein said base includes an attachment means adapted to releasably attach an upright assembly to the distal end of the socket.	Page 10 lines 10-21.
55. The prosthetic limb of Claim 52, wherein said base includes a proximate cushion portion.	Figure 1, cushion 28.
56. The prosthetic limb of Claim 50, wherein said sleeve provides a seal between said residual limb and said socket.	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
57. A prosthetic limb socket system configured to receive a residual limb, said prosthetic limb socket system comprising:	See Figure 1.
a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb;	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
a prosthetic limb socket comprising:	See Figure 1, socket 12.
a proximal opening;	See Figure 1, socket 12.
a socket wall and a distal end configured to define a socket interior;	See Figure 1, socket 12.
a channel configured to conduct fluid between said socket interior and an exterior of said prosthetic limb socket; and	See Figure 1, channel 22.
a check valve releasably coupled to said channel and configured to spontaneously open said channel in response to a socket interior pressure higher than an exterior pressure and close said channel in response to said socket interior pressure substantially equal to or less than said exterior pressure.	See Figure 1, valve 58, and page 9 lines 3-28.
58. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 57, wherein said valve is coupled to a pump which provides a forced transfer of air to or from the socket interior.	Page 9 lines 14-28.

59. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 57, further comprising a base attached to the interior distal end of the socket, having a proximate surface, including at least one channel extending through said proximate surface.	See Figure 1, base 16, and channel 22.
60. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 59, wherein said base is adapted to be removably fitted within the socket interior at the distal end of the socket.	Page 7 lines 16-24.
61. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 59, wherein said base includes an attachment means adapted to releasably attach an upright assembly to the distal end of the socket.	Page 10 lines 10-21.
62. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 59, wherein said base includes a proximate cushion portion.	Figure 1, cushion 28.
63. The prosthetic limb socket system of Claim 59, wherein said sleeve provides a seal between said residual limb and said socket.	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
64. A valve assembly for a prosthetic limb socket, comprising:  a base adapted to be removably fitted within the socket interior at the distal end of the socket, said base having a proximate surface, including at least one channel extending through said proximate surface;	See Figure 1, base 16, and channel 22.
a duct extending through said socket, connected to said channel; and	See Figure 1, duct 60.
a valve coupled to said duct for controlling the flow of air therethrough.	See Figure 1, valve 58.
65. A method for attaching a prosthesis including a suction socket having an open proximal end for receiving a residual limb and a distal end, comprising:  (a) rolling a sleeve over the residual limb;	Page 10 line 29 – page 11 line 2.
(b) installing a valve means into said distal end of said suction socket, said valve connected to a duct extending through said socket;	Page 9 lines 3-28.
(c) positioning said residual limb with said sleeve into said open proximal end of said suction socket; and	Page 11 lines 13-31.

(d) drawing air through said duct means of a vacuum pump to create a negative pressure between said sleeve and said distal end of said suction socket such that said sleeve is pulled into full engagement within said suction socket.	Page 11 lines 13-31.
66. A method for donning or doffing a suction suspension prosthesis, said prosthesis including a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb, a suction socket having an open proximal end for receiving said residual limb and said sleeve and a distal end, comprising	Page 10 line 29 – page 12 line 1.
influencing air pressure between said sleeve and said distal end of said socket,	Page 11 lines 13-31.
decreasing the air pressure to a negative pressure to draw said liner and residual limb into said suction socket or increasing the air pressure to a positive pressure to expel said liner and said residual limb from said suction socket.	Page 11 lines 13-31.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 43 as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

43. (Amended) The prosthetic limb of claim [36] 67, further comprising a sleeve to be worn over the residual limb.

Please add new claims 67-83 as follows:

Claims 67-83 (New)